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XAAZ-27874

12 July 1949

Source: (OPC-SADO)

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. John Davies
Policy Planning Staff
Department of State

From: Mr. Carmel Office

IMP Subject: Memorandum entitled, "Broadcasting to Asiatic Peoples in the U.S.S.R. in their Native Languages."

There are attached four copies of subject memorandum which was recently written by Professor Rosenberg. The three extra copies are for forwarding informally to Messrs. Allen, Thayer, and Butterworth. I shall appreciate your comments on the quality and accuracy of the paper.

(Poppe)
aka Bergstrom

C.O.

Attachments:
As stated

1 copy to R

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ABSTRACT	INDEX

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BROADCASTING TO ASIATIC PEOPLES IN THE USSR IN THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGES

I

There are considerable numbers of non-Russian peoples in the Soviet Union who do not speak or understand the Russian language with ease. Among them are many who are incredulous of all news that is broadcast in the Russian language. Thus, it would seem advantageous to direct to them some news broadcasts in their native languages. Moreover, the use of their native languages would be ingratifying and would increase their receptivity to the content of such programs. For practical purposes, however, it must be pointed out that only a few non-Russian languages could be fruitfully employed in radio broadcasts. Each language should be chosen on the basis of 1) the size of the population which uses the language, 2) the attitude of that population toward the Soviet Government, and 3) the number of short-wave radio receivers among that population. It is the intent of this paper to indicate which languages might be employed most fruitfully on the basis of the first two criteria.

A. Uzbeks

There are 3.4 to 4 million Uzbeks living in the Uzbek SSR. They are Moslems and possess an old and developed culture. The Uzbek language * is relatively uniform and is perfectly understandable to all natives. It is, in addition, both understood and spoken by many Tajiks and is understood by the Volga Tatars, Kazakhs, and many Turkomans.

The Uzbeks are not the most willing Soviet subjects. Many revolts occurred among them over the issue of collectivization. During the recent war the Uzbeks made up some of the least reliable military units. They deserted en masse and in Germany formed anti-Soviet troops. There also they were organized into the "Free Turkestan Committee" headed by Kayum Khan, who is still in Germany. Among the displaced persons in Germany there are many Uzbeks who refuse to return to the USSR and, under the guise of Turks, seek entrance into Moslem countries.

B. Turkomans

There are approximately 1.5 million Moslem Turkomans, who are principally located in the Turkmenian SSR. There are also many living in Iran and Afghanistan, both of which countries have common borders with the Turkmenian SSR. Their language is similar to Uzbek, but the differences are great enough to make the latter language unsuitable for broadcasting to Turkomans.

In the 1920's and '30's the Turkomans, along with the Uzbeks, participated in the kulak revolts of the Basmachi, whose headquarters and source of arms was in Afghanistan.

* Turkish, which is understood by many educated Uzbeks, should not be used in broadcasting to them because they are highly nationalistic and not particularly well-disposed to the Turks.

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C. Azerbaijanians

There are approximately 2 million Azerbaijanians in the Azerbaijanian SSR and some half million more in Iranian Azerbaijan, which borders the Soviet Republic. The language is extremely close to Turkish, but the two Moslem peoples are not friendly, the Turks being Sunnites and the Azerbaijanians Shites.

Azerbaijanian soldiers were unreliable during the war and deserted to the Germans in large numbers.

Azerbaijan, in which are located some of the most important oil fields in the USSR, is highly industrialized. The proportion of radio receivers among Turkic peoples is highest in Azerbaijan.

D. Georgians

There are approximately 2 million Georgians in the Georgian SSR who have a unique language and are highly civilized.

The Georgians are a democratic people and played an important role in the history of the Russian Social Democratic party. A major uprising occurred among the Georgians in 1924; since that time there have been frequent local uprisings. Georgians deserted in such numbers during the war that the Germans were able to organize 2 Georgian divisions.

There is a large number of radio receivers among the Georgians.

E. Armenians

There is a total of approximately 3 million Armenians living in the Armenian SSR and throughout the USSR. They, like the Georgians, are a highly civilized people who have their own Academy of Sciences, universities, schools, and theatres.

The Armenians deserted in such numbers during the war that the Germans were able to create 3 Armenian divisions.

There is a large number of radio receivers among the Armenians.

F. Osetians

The 700,000 Osetians of the North and South Osetian Republics, although of Iranian origin, speak a unique language.

They collaborated with the Germans during the war.

G. Kazakhs

There are approximately 6 million Kazakhs living in the Kazakh SSR and Sinkiang. They speak a Turkic language which is not easily understood by speakers of other Turkic languages except the Kirghis (approximately 1 million).

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The Kazakhs and Kirghis are both seminomadic peoples who suffered under collectivization and participated in Basmachi revolts.

The Kazakhs are a primitive people and it is doubtful that there are many radios among them.

II

For each of the groups described above there are certain subjects of particular interest. These subjects are listed below under the appropriate ethnic headings, which are placed in the order of their importance. It should be noted that in spite of the small number of short-wave receivers possessed by the peoples who speak these languages, news travels quickly among them by word of mouth. Each of the following groups of subjects could be used for other ethnic groups *mutatis mutandis*.

A. For Georgians:

1. Georgian history;
2. Georgian culture;
3. Annexation of Georgia by Russia;
4. The prominent role of Georgians in the history of the Russian Social Democratic party;
5. The role of the Georgian representatives in the Duma;
6. The annihilation of the Georgian intelligentsia by the Soviets.

B. For Armenians:

1. Historical topics;
2. History of the Armenian Church;
3. History of Armenian literature;
4. The role of the Armenians in the struggle against terrorism;
5. Armenian colonies outside the USSR;
6. Armenian monasteries in Greece and other foreign countries;
7. The annihilation of the Armenian intelligentsia by the Soviets.

C. For Azerbaijanis:

1. Azerbaijan as a Soviet colony;
2. Oil in Azerbaijan;

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3. Soviet replacement of the Latin by the Russian alphabet (cf. the Committee of the New Alphabet and Lenin's "Latinization of the Alphabet is a Revolution in the East");
4. History of Azerbaijan;
5. What has happened to Koriyassov, Mussabekov, and Aliyev;
6. The annihilation of the Azerbaijanian intelligentsia by the Soviets;
7. The liquidation of Professor Choban Zade;
8. Soviet fear of the Turkic peoples within the USSR;
9. Why the Soviets oppose the comparative studies of Turkic languages;
10. Why are pan-Turkism and pan-Islamism dangerous to the Soviets?
11. Soviet imperialist aims in Turkey;
12. Persecution of the Moslem religion.

D. For Uzbek:

1. Central Asia as a Soviet colony;
2. Conquest of Central Asia by the Russians;
3. The Free People's Republic of Turkestan and its annexation by the Soviets;
4. The truth about Faisallah Khodjaev and Ikramov;
5. Annihilation of the Uzbek intelligentsia;
6. Persecution of the Moslem religion in Central Asia;
7. Moslem culture of Central Asia;
8. The fate of Professor Fitrat;
9. Who are the Basmachis?
10. The role of Central Asia in the last war as a link to Soviet Russia for lend-lease supplies;
11. How did lend-lease work?
12. Why Uzbek soldiers deserted to the Germans;
13. The essentiality of Central Asia to the existence of the USSR;
14. Central Asian cotton and its importance to the Soviets.

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K. Turkmenistan:

The same as for Uzbeks and, in addition:

1. Turkmenistan's role in the last war (i.e. as a route of lend-lease supplies);
2. Annihilation of the Turkmenian intelligentsia;
3. Kazakhstan's mineral wealth and its importance to the Soviets;
4. The mass emigration of Kazakhs to Sinkiang during collectivization;
5. The persecution of the Moslem religion;
6. Who is Isakbul? (His poems praising Stalin are actually improvisations of Russian translations);
7. The heroic Mann Epics;
8. Why has the Russian alphabet replaced the Latin?
9. The persecution of Nationalism is actually the annihilation of the original Kazakh culture.

L. North Caucasians:

Mainly the same as for Georgians and, in addition:

1. The conquest of the Caucasus by Russia in the 19th century;
2. The Kart Epics;
3. The expulsion of North Caucasian peoples after the last war to Siberia;
4. The Stalinist Friendship of Peoples in Soviet Russia;
5. The national policies of the Soviets.

I. For Volga Tatars:

Mainly the same as for Tatars and, in addition:

1. The fate of the Tatar intelligentsia;
2. Kurbangaliyev;
3. Persecution of the Moslem religion.

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